



NEWS

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News Media Contact:
Meribeth McCarrick at (202) 418-0654

FCC ANNOUNCES DALE HATFIELD TO LEAD INQUIRY OF TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL ISSUES AFFECTING DEPLOYMENT OF WIRELESS ENHANCED 911 SERVICES

Washington, DC – The FCC today announced that Dale N. Hatfield, former Chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology, will lead the inquiry of technical and operational issues affecting deployment of wireless enhanced 911 (E911) services. The inquiry will evaluate information from technology vendors, network equipment and handset manufacturers, carriers and the public safety community concerning technology standards issues, development of hardware and software, and supply conditions. This inquiry also will address the provisioning by incumbent local exchange carriers of the facilities and equipment necessary to receive and utilize E911 data elements.

Tom Sugrue, Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, said, "As part of the Commission's commitment to ensure the full availability of E911 services, it has asked Dale Hatfield to lead an inquiry into the technical issues that are affecting the pace of wireless E911 service. Dale's experience, demonstrated skill in technology issues, and his prior work at the Commission will serve him well as he leads this effort. I am pleased that Dale has agreed to bring his immense depth of knowledge and understanding of telecommunications technology and policy to the issues and concerns raised in the wireless E911 proceeding."

Hatfield is the Director of the Interdisciplinary Telecommunications Program at the University of Colorado at Boulder. From 1997 until 2000, Hatfield served first as Chief Technologist and later as Chief of the Office of Engineering and Technology at the FCC. Hatfield's other government roles have included senior policy making roles as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and Deputy Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, as well as Chief of the Office of Plans and Policy at the FCC. Hatfield holds a BS in electrical engineering from Case Institute of Technology and an MS in Industrial Management from Purdue University.

Sugrue said that Hatfield will work closely with the staff of the Policy Division of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to further define the parameters of this inquiry, and that the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will, within the next few weeks, issue a Public Notice giving more detailed guidance regarding the scope of this inquiry, including outlining the procedures for moving forward.